

Hugh Rose Photography Tours

Compliance

Chapter Two for the Plan (pages 2–26 and 2–27) and also implementing in action #1 under Recreation Program Objective #2 found in Appendix N (page N-19) which states, “Process Special Recreational Permit applications for all commercial and competitive events on a case-by-case basis;” and the Recreation Area Management Plan for the Dalton Highway which was approved October 11, 1991.

These lands and recreation sites are within the Dalton Highway Recreation Management Area (DHRMA) and described in the Dalton Highway Recreation Management Plan (1991).

The action, as proposed, is consistent with objectives outlined in these Central Yukon Field Office (CYFO) documents and not in conflict with other resources in the area. The proposed use is in conformance with current policy of the Fairbanks District Office, BLM. The Proposed Action conforms and is tiered to the existing land use plans (LUPs) and environmental documentation below.

Selected Action

Mr. Rose has requested to conduct natural history/photo tours in the Dalton Highway Corridor for groups of up to eight (8) participants for up to 10 days with a focus on nature photography. The total number of groups requested is four per year. The travel dates are primarily in the months of March, September and October each year. Travel is in a passenger van equipped with a cb, satellite phone and first aid kit. A second support vehicle is typically included in each trip. Photography activity is described as being primarily done in areas with safe parking along the side of the highway. There are times when short hikes into the natural areas along the roadside are conducted. Lodging is in the community of Wiseman and Prudhoe Bay.

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9, (H) 1 which states, “Issuance of Recreation Permits for day use and or overnights use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

Public Involvement:

No public comment has been received on this proposed action

Rationale:

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

If you choose to protest this decision you must do so within 15 days of the receipt of permit determination. The protest must be filed with and received by the CYFO Field Manager within the allotted time. The protest must present any evidence that would show the decision is in

error and should be vacated or modified. Within 15 days of receipt of a timely protest the Field Manager will review any evidence provided by you and forward a recommended final decision to the Fairbanks District Manager. The decision of the District Manager will be the final BLM decision, and may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

Authorizing Official:

Nichelle W Jacobson
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact.

Kelly Egger, Outdoor Recreation Planner
BLM, Central Yukon Field Office
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Fairbanks, AK 99709
907/474-2242 or kegger@blm.gov

Essential Fish Habitat Assessment

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-0F30-2015-0007-CX

Applicant(s): Hugh Rose

Case File/Serial No.: FF096830

Proposed Action: Mr. Rose has requested to conduct natural history/photo tours in the Dalton Highway Corridor for groups of up to eight (8) participants for up to 10 days with a focus on nature photography. The total number of groups requested is four per year. The travel dates are primarily in the months of March, September and October each year. Travel is in a passenger van equipped with a cb, satellite phone and first aid kit. A second support vehicle is typically included in each trip. Photography activity is described as being primarily done in areas with safe parking along the side of the highway. There are times when short hikes into the natural areas along the roadside are conducted. Lodging is in the community of Wiseman and Prudhoe Bay.

Location: BLM lands and waysides adjacent to the Dalton Highway Corridor

Evaluation by: David A. Esse

Date: 1/15/15

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Finding: While anadromous species are present in the project area (ADF&G 2015), it is not anticipated that the proposed action will have an adverse effect on EFH. Therefore, the proposed action is assigned the EFH determination: *No effect*. EFH consultation with NMFS is not required.

References: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2015. Fish distribution database. Internet website at: <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us>.

Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-0F30-2015-0007-CX

Applicant(s): Hugh Rose

Case File/Serial No.: FF096830

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Location: BLM lands and waysides adjacent to the Dalton Highway Corridor

Evaluation by:

Date:

Proposed Action

Evaluation

FINDING

Type of Assessment/Sources

Compliance with ANILCA Section 810

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-0F30-2015-0007-CX

Applicant(s): Hugh Rose

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Location: BLM lands and waysides adjacent to the Dalton Highway Corridor

Evaluation by: and David Esse

Date:

Type of Assessment/Sources: Review of application materials, subsistence database, local knowledge, interviews with staff knowledgeable about the area and the proposed action.

Effect of the proposal on subsistence uses and needs

Fisheries: Arctic Grayling are common and widely harvested by subsistence users throughout the Koyukuk River drainage. The harvest takes place primarily with hook and line gear during the fall as the grayling move from their headwater summer rearing habitat to deeper wintering areas. Fall harvests using these methods can result in individual subsistence fishers taking hundreds of grayling (Anderson et al. 2004). The proposed action would not alter the distribution, migration or location of harvestable fisheries resources. The proposed action will not create any legal or physical barriers that would limit access by subsistence users of the fisheries resource.

Wildlife:

Other resources:

Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources due to alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location:

Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal:

Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved:

Other alternatives, if any, which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes:

Findings:

References

Anderson, D.B., C.L. Brown, R.J. Walker, and K. Elkin. 2004. Traditional ecological knowledge and contemporary subsistence harvest of non-salmon fish in the Koyukuk River drainage, Alaska. Technical Paper No. 282. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Fairbanks, AK. 164p.